

Amendments to the claims

Please amend claims 1, 3-7, and 9-12, and add new claims 13-20 as shown below. This listing of claims replaces all prior claims in the present application.

1. (original) An anisotropic nanoscale structure formed from at least one element selected from groups IA and IIA of the periodic table and at least one element selected from groups IIIA, IVA, and VA.
2. (original) A nanoscale structure as claimed in claim 1, wherein, the nanostructure is inorganic.
3. (original) A nanoscale structure as claimed in claim 1, wherein the element of group IA is lithium, sodium or potassium.
4. (original) A nanoscale structure as claimed in claim 3, wherein the element of group IA is lithium.
5. (currently amended) A nanoscale structure as claimed in ~~any preceding~~ claim 1, wherein, the structure is a nanotube, nanorod or nanofibre.
6. (original) A nanoscale structure as claimed in claim 5, wherein, the structure is a nanotube.
7. (currently amended) A nanoscale structure as claimed in ~~any of~~ claims 1 to 6, wherein the non-metallic element selected from groups IIIA, IVA, and VA is one or more of boron, carbon, silicon or nitrogen.
8. (original) A nanoscale structure as claimed in claim 7, wherein the non-metallic element is nitrogen.

9. (currently amended) A nanoscale structure as claimed in ~~any preceding~~ claim 1 in which some of the metallic element of group IA and IIA has been replaced with another element selected from hydrogen and/or a transition metal.
10. (currently amended) A nanoscale structure as claimed in ~~any preceding~~ claim 2, wherein the nanostructure is a nanotube in which the hollow core has been filled with a metal to form a metallic nanowire.
11. (currently amended) A nanoscale structure as claimed in ~~any preceding~~ claim 2, wherein chemical modification of the nanostructure has been performed in order to enhance or tailor the properties of the nanostructure.
12. (currently amended) An anisotropic nanoscale structure based on lithium nitride (Li_3N).
13. (currently amended) Use of an anisotropic nanostructure according to ~~any of claims 1 to 12~~ 2 in an ionic conductor/battery component, a hydrogen storage device, for templating nanowires, an electrical device, catalysis, a flat display screen, or as a structural member.
14. (currently amended) A process for the production of a nanostructure as defined in ~~any of claims 1 to 6~~, the process comprising exposing the metal of Group IA or IIA to a gaseous source of the element of Group IIIA, IVA, or VA, ~~optionally in the presence of a transition metal~~, in a sealed heated chamber at a pressure between atmospheric pressure and a pressure of 10^{-2} Pa (10^{-4} torr), wherein the upper limit of the temperature is not more than 1200°C , and wherein said chamber comprises a cold finger into which water is placed.
15. (original) A process as claimed in claim 14, wherein the upper limit of the temperature is defined by the temperature of decomposition of the compound.

16. (currently amended) A process as claimed in claim 14 ~~or 15~~, wherein lithium is heated in the presence of nitrogen in a sealed vessel until the pressure in the vessel is constant to form a lithium nitride nanostructure.

17. (new) A process as claimed in claim 14 wherein exposing the metal of Group IA or IIA to a gaseous source of the element of Group IIIA, IVA, or VA is further in the presence of a transition metal.

18. (new) A process as claimed in claim 15, wherein lithium is heated in the presence of nitrogen in a sealed vessel until the pressure in the vessel is constant to form a lithium nitride nanostructure.